



Minutes of the AIR Annual Meeting
held on the
16th October 2024

The Hive, Carrick on Shannon
Co. Leitrim

Attendance:

In person:

Cllr Declan McDonnell
Cllr Jimmy McClearn
Cllr Michael Clarke
Cllr Dermot Lacey

Mr Denis Kelly, NWRA
Mr David Kelly, SRA
Ms Clare Bannon, EMRA

On-line:

Cllr Terry Shannon
Cllr Niall "Botty" O'Callaghan
Cllr Mairin McGrath
Cllr David Healy
Cllr Paul Ross
Cllr Jarlath Munnelly

Support Staff:

Mr Simon Musial, EMRA
Ms Geraldine Kenny, EMRA

Apologies:

Cllr Gareth Kelleher

Cllr Jimmy McClearn proposed a 5 minute adjournment as a mark of respect for the late Cllr John Naughten, member of AIR and the NWRA. Cllr Declan McDonnell seconded the proposal and that a message of condolence on behalf of AIR be sent to his family.

ITEM 1

Election of Cathaoirleach

Cllr D Lacey, the outgoing Cathaoirleach, thanked the AIR members for their support in the previous year. A discussion followed in relation to the 5-year term and the rotation of the Cathaoirleach annually between the 3 assemblies, with contributions from Cllr D McDonnell and Cllr J McClearn. It was **AGREED** to leave the current term of 1 year as is, with the Cathaoirleach role rotated between the 3 assemblies on a continuous basis.

Cllr D McDonnell proposed Cllr J McClearn for Cathaoirleach, this was seconded by Cllr M Clarke.

This was **AGREED**.

The Cathaoirleach J McClearn thanked the members for his nomination and looks forward to working with the members.

ITEM 2

Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach

Cllr D McDonnell proposed the Leas-Chathaoirleach is a member from the SRA given that SRA will take up the position of Cathaoirleach next year. A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr M Clarke, Cllr M McGrath and Cllr N O'Callaghan.

Cllr M McGrath proposed to postpone the election of the Leas-Chathaoirleach until the next meeting of AIR, this was seconded by Cllr N O'Callaghan.

This was **AGREED**.

ITEM 3

Adoption of Minutes of meeting held 3rd of April 2024

The Minutes from meeting on the 3rd of April 2024 were proposed by Cllr D McDonnell and seconded by Cllr D Lacey.

The minutes were **APPROVED**.

ITEM 4

A.I.R Constitution

Mr. David Kelly gave the members an update on the amendments proposed to the AIR constitution. A copy of the proposed constitution was circulated to the members prior to the meeting.

A discussion followed in relation to alternate members, with contributions from Cllr D McDonnell, Cllr D Lacey, Cllr N O'Callaghan, Mr. D Kelly NWRA, Mr. D Kelly SRA and Ms. C Bannon.

Membership Section 3

It was **AGREED** to include a provision for each regional assembly to delegate two alternate members to

AIR and that the directors of the assemblies will nominate an alternate for themselves.

Objectives Section 2

Section 2.2 Cllr D Lacey proposed to remove the words *“to the Government of Ireland or any Minister of the Government of Ireland”*

This was **AGREED**.

Meetings Section 6

Cllr D Mc Donnell proposed that the AIR AGM be held as an in-person only meeting. A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr T Shannon, Cllr D McDonnell, Cllr J McClean, Cllr M McGrath, Cllr P Ross, Cllr J Munnely, Cllr N O’Callaghan, Mr. Denis Kelly, Mr. David Kelly and Ms. C Bannon, Cllr N O’Callaghan and Cllr T Shannon proposed that a schedule of meetings is circulated in advance to enable more members to attend.

Mr. David Kelly proposed that the wording of section 6.5 be amended to encourage physical attendance with hybrid attendance facilitated at all meetings, in order to reflect members’ concerns.

Cllr D McDonnell proposed to approve the constitution subject to the ratification of the amendments discussed and entered into the minutes.

This was **AGREED & APPROVED**.

ITEM 5

A.I.R Training Seminar 2025

Clare Bannon outlined the plan and the timeline for the AIR training seminar to be held in the EMRA region. The main theme for the seminar will be to celebrate 10 years of Regional Assemblies, with potential sessions centered on the evolving role of regional assemblies and sub national governance, Planning and the updated NPF, and the EU work of the Regional Assemblies.

Cllr D McDonnell praised the 2 previous AIR training seminars and proposed that the format should remain the same.

It was agreed to approach the appropriate Minister’s office to secure them as a keynote speaker.

An AIR subcommittee was set up to oversee preparations of the AIR Training Seminar. Mr. David Kelly proposed 1 member per region. The nominations were agreed for the AIR subcommittee as follows:

Cllr J McClearn, NWRA

Cllr P Ross, EMRA

Cllr N O’Callaghan, SRA

It was agreed that the first subcommittee meeting would be held immediately prior to the next AIR meeting.

ITEM 6

Any other business

None.

ITEM 7

Date and Venue for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the AIR will be held in the venue for the next AIR training event, a save the date will be issued when the venue is agreed.

Signed:



Cllr. Jimmy McClearn
Cathaoirleach

26/11/2024
Date

Ms. Clare Bannon
EMRA

Date